UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,089	12/06/2001	Gary Cole	WAVE1110-1	8837

7590   02/23/2006

ROBERT C. KOWERT
MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. BOX 398
AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398

EXAMINER
YIGDALL, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2192	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

MAILED

Application Number: 10/006,089
Filing Date: December 06, 2001
Appellant(s): COLE, GARY

FEB 2 3 2006

Technology Center 2100

Robert C. Kowert
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed on November 21, 2005 appealing from the Office

action mailed on June 7, 2005.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

The following is a listing of the evidence (e.g., patents, publications, Official Notice, and admitted prior art) relied upon in the rejection of claims under appeal:

6,189,000   GWERTZMAN et al.   2-2001

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-4, 5-12 and 14-33 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,189,000 to Gwertzman et al. ("Gwertzman").

(10) Response to Argument

As an initial matter, the above ground(s) of rejection were set forth in the Office action mailed on June 7, 2005, and are reproduced at page 12 of this examiner's answer.

Appellant's arguments are primarily directed to the issues presented in the after-final response filed on August 5, 2005 and the pre-appeal brief request for review filed on September 7, 2005, which were addressed in the advisory action mailed on October 13, 2005. The arguments are addressed again with further detail below.

Furthermore, a side-by-side comparison aligning the language of claim 1, the representative claim at issue, to Gwertzman was provided in the advisory action, and is reproduced on the next page.

Claim 1	Gwertzman
A system for managing information comprising:	
a **software program** stored on a computer-readable medium operable to maintain an **identity index**, wherein said identity index comprises:	a **storage mechanism interface** (84 in FIG. 3), which includes **database** entries (column 10, lines 3-25) that form an identity index (see, for example, column 7, lines 1-8)
a **virtual identity** further comprising:	a database entry, such as the entry for "[msn]" (column 10, lines 12-18), where "msn" is a **logical name** (see, for example, column 6, lines 52-65)
a *plurality* of **information object identifiers** each corresponding to a respective **information object**; and	an **actual name**, comprised of the "ADSPath" plus the "Suffix" from the database entry (see, for example, column 8, lines 21-24), which identifies and corresponds to a respective **data structure** or **object** (see, for example, column 6, lines 52-65); a *plurality* because the "DepObject" and "DepProp" from the database entry identify at least a second object from the first object (see, for example, column 8, lines 28-30)
for each information object, a **resource name** identifying a **resource** at which said respective information object is located, wherein said resource name is associated with said respective information object identifier; and	a **path name** (the "ADSPath" from the database entry) that identifies the **storage mechanism** resource at which the data structure or object is located (see, for example, column 7, lines 1-8)
a **resource definition** corresponding to each respective said named resource, wherein the resource definition further comprises **connection information**.	**configuration information** for the storage mechanism, comprised of at least the "Schema," the "BindAsName" and the "BindAsPassword" from the database entry, specifically in which the "BindAsName" and "BindAsPassword" are **access information** for connecting to the storage mechanism (see, for example, column 8, lines 42-49)

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-18 and 19 (brief, page 6):

Appellant contends, "Gwertzman does not teach a data structure for an identity index as recited in Appellant's claims" (brief, page 6, last paragraph). The identity index "comprises a virtual identity that includes a plurality of information object identifiers" (brief, page 7, first full paragraph). Specifically, Applicant contends, "each of the entries in Gwertzman's database, which the examiner equates to virtual identities, contains information regarding only a single logical name mapped to a single path name" (brief, page 7, first full paragraph).

However, each entry in Gwertzman's database includes "ADSPath" and "Suffix" fields, as well as "DepObject" and "DepProp" fields (see, for example, column 8, TABLE 1). The DepObject and DepProp fields are "used to instantiate a second object using information obtained from a first, already instantiated object" (column 8, lines 28-30). The "first, already instantiated object" is instantiated from the ADSPath and Suffix fields (see, for example, column 8, lines 21-24). Thus, each entry in Gwertzman's database includes ADSPath and Suffix fields that identify one object, and DepObject and DepProp fields that identify a second object. In other words, each entry in Gwertzman's database includes identifiers for at least two objects, which is to say a plurality of objects.

In this regard, Appellant concludes that "it would not make [sense] for Gwertzman's system to include multiple information objects and multiple resource locations for a logic name" (brief, page 7, first full paragraph). However, Gwertzman discloses that the DepObject and DepProp fields "can be used for grouping properties," and discloses one example that illustrates why it would make sense to do so (column 8, lines 30-41). Appellant acknowledges

Gwertzman's example, but contends that "Gwertzman is not describing anything about the

entries in his database" (brief, page 7, last paragraph). However, the ADSPath, Suffix,

DepObject and DepProp fields, among others, are indeed included in each entry of the database

(see, for example, column 10, lines 3-30).

Significantly, Appellant suggests that TABLE 1 of Gwertzman "only includes a single

instance of a DepObject and DepProp fields, not multiple instances, as suggested by the

Examiner," and thus contends that the "DepObject and DepProp fields clearly do not represent a

plurality of information object identifiers, as erroneously asserted by the Examiner" (brief, page

8, last paragraph).

However, Appellant mischaracterizes the examiner's position. As Appellant notes, each

entry in Gwertzman's database does, in fact, include one instance of each field. That is to say,

however, that each entry includes one instance each of the ADSPath, Suffix, DepObject and

DepProp fields. The examiner does not suggest that each entry includes more than one instance

of the DepObject and DepProp fields, nor is it necessary to show that it does. Rather, the

ADSPath and Suffix fields constitute one object identifier, and the DepObject and DepProp

fields constitute a second object identifier, as presented above. Thus, each entry in Gwertzman's

database, or each "virtual identity," comprises a "plurality of information object identifiers," as

recited in the plain language of the claims.

Claim 3 (brief, page 9):

Appellant contends, "Gwertzman fails to disclose that the schema map maps a resource

attribute from the resource to a virtual attribute defined by the schema map" (brief, page 9, last

paragraph). Appellant suggests that instead, "Gwertzman's schema merely lists the properties of an object that are available for access" (brief, page 10, first paragraph).

Indeed, contrary to Appellant's contention, Gwertzman's schema identifies the properties or attributes included in each object (see, for example, column 7, lines 51-56). Specifically, the schema defines elements such as "Phone numbers" to indicate that an object includes such a property, as Appellant acknowledges (brief, page 9, last paragraph). "The application developer can select a property desired and is presented with the logical name of the data structure containing that property" (column 7, lines 63-65, emphasis added). In other words, the schema "maps" a property contained in an object to an element such as "Phone numbers" defined in the schema. An element defined in the schema is thus a virtual property or a "virtual attribute" for the actual property or attribute contained in the object. The object is located at a storage mechanism resource, and is accessed with the logical name that the schema presents to the application developer (see, for example, column 9, lines 28-44). Thus, Gwertzman's schema indeed "maps" an actual property or attribute from the resource to a "virtual attribute" that it defines.

Claim 7 (brief, page 10):

Appellant contends, "Gwertzman fails to disclose the virtual identity corresponds to a user" (brief, page 10, third paragraph). Specifically, Appellant contends that "Gwertzman describes using user credentials to access storage mechanism storing desired properties (properties associated with a logical name) not that a logical name corresponds to a user" (brief, page 11, top paragraph).

However, Appellant acknowledges that "the <u>user identification information</u> referred to by the Examiner at column 7, lines 14-17 is describing user identification <u>required to access</u> a storage mechanism associated with a <u>logical name</u> (e.g. virtual identity)" (brief, page 10, third paragraph, emphasis added). Still, Appellant concludes that the user identification information "does <u>not</u> describe a <u>logical name</u> or virtual identity that <u>corresponds to a user</u>" (brief, page 10, third paragraph, emphasis added). In other words, Appellant's reasoning is that while A is required to access B, B does not correspond to A. The examiner is at a loss: If B does not correspond to A, or vice versa, then how or why does access to B require A? Moreover, it is noted that the plain language of the claim recites merely that "said virtual identity corresponds to a user." The user identification information, "stored in the BindAsName and BindAsPassword entries of TABLE 1" (brief, page 10, last paragraph), is in fact the information with which the logical name or virtual identity corresponds to a user.

Specifically, each entry in Gwertzman's database includes the BindAsName and BindAsPassword fields (see, for example, column 10, lines 3-30). These fields specify the user credentials for that database entry (see, for example, column 8, lines 42-45). Thus, each entry in Gwertzman's database corresponds to a set of user credentials, or in other words, corresponds to a user whose credentials are specified.

<u>Claim 11</u> (brief, page 11):

Appellant's arguments, and accordingly the examiner's response, are analogous to those presented above for claim 3.

<u>Claims 20-24</u> (brief, page 11):

Appellant's arguments, and accordingly the examiner's response, are analogous to those presented above for claims 1 and 7.

Appellant further contends, "Gwertzman's database entries do not contain resource definitions," and similarly, "Since Gwertzman does not include connection information in resource definitions in the entries of his database, Gwertzman cannot be said to anticipate Appellant's claim 20" (brief, page 14, first full paragraph).

However, each entry in Gwertzman's database includes several fields that constitute a "resource definition." For example, at least the Schema, BindAsName and BindAsPassword fields noted above define information about the storage mechanism resource. In particular, the BindAsName and BindAsPassword fields are examples of "connection information" because, as Gwertzman discloses, "Without proper authentication, the requesting application cannot access the storage mechanism containing the desired user property" (column 8, lines 45-47). In other words, the user credentials specified in the BindAsName and BindAsPassword fields are "connection information" needed to connect to and access the storage mechanism resource.

In this regard, Appellant recognizes that "TABLE 1 defines configuration information utilized to initialize the storage-mechanism COM object," but contends that "Gwertzman's TABLE 1 is not a part of Gwertzman's database," and further contends, "Nowhere does Gwertzman describe TABLE 1 as being part of, of as describing, the database, which the Examiner equates to an identity index" (brief, page 14, first full paragraph). On the contrary, the fields illustrated in TABLE 1 are the exact fields included in each entry of the database (see, for example, column 10, lines 3-30).

Claim 25 (brief, page 15):

Appellant's arguments, and accordingly the examiner's response, are analogous to those presented above for claim 3.

Claims 26-31 and 33 (brief, page 15):

Appellant contends, "Gwertzman does not disclose storing an identity index including a plurality of information object identifiers corresponding to a set of information objects that define a user" (brief, page 15, last paragraph).

However, further to the discussion of claim 1 above, claim 26 does not recite that the "identity index" comprises a "virtual identity" that in turn comprises a "plurality of information object identifiers." Instead, claim 26 merely recites an "identity index" that itself comprises a "plurality of information object identifiers." Accordingly, it is not even necessary to show that each entry or "virtual identity" in Gwertzman's database includes a plurality of identifiers. Indeed, it is sufficient that the database or "identity index" includes a plurality of entries, and that each entry includes at least one identifier (see, for example, column 10, lines 3-30). Thus, Gwertzman's database includes a "plurality of information object identifiers." Gwertzman discloses that the identifiers correspond to "user objects" (see, for example, column 7, lines 44-50), which is to say "information objects that define a user," such as an object that defines an "MsnUser" or an "InvestorUser" (column 10, lines 3-30).

Appellant contends, "Gwertzman also fails to disclose associating a resource definition with each information object identifier, wherein each resource definition corresponds to a

different one of a plurality of resources at which the information object corresponding to the

associated information object identifier is located." Here, Appellant emphasizes the "plurality of

resources" (brief, page 16, last paragraph).

However, further to the discussion of claim 20 above, a purpose of Gwertzman's storage

mechanism interface is to encapsulate and aggregate user properties that are located at a plurality

of storage mechanism resources (see, for example, the abstract, and column 5, lines 52-59). For

example, Appellant acknowledges that each entry in Gwertzman's database includes "a path

name (to the storage mechanism)" (brief, page 16, last paragraph). In other words, Gwertzman's

database includes a plurality of path names, and each path name corresponds to one of a plurality

of storage mechanism resources. Moreover, Appellant suggests that Gwertzman's DepObject

and DepProp fields are "especially for use with grouping properties by cross-linking between

two storage mechanisms" (brief, page 17, first full paragraph), which is to say a plurality of

storage mechanism resources.

Claim 32 (brief, page 17):

Appellant's arguments, and accordingly the examiner's response, are analogous to those

presented above for claim 3.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related

Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims and were set

forth in the Office action mailed on June 7, 2005:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35
U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this
Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under
> section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
> applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another
> filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that
> an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have
> the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States
> only if the international application designated the United States and was published
> under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being
anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,189,000 to Gwertzman et al. (art of record,
"Gwertzman").

With respect to claim 1 (currently amended), Gwertzman discloses a
system for managing information (see, for example, the abstract, which shows a
system for managing properties or information) comprising:
        a software program stored on a computer-readable medium operable to
maintain an identity index (see, for example, column 5, lines 52-59, which shows
a storage-mechanism interface, and column 7, lines 1-8, which further shows that
the storage-mechanism interface maintains a database or an identity index),
wherein said identity index comprises:
        (a) a virtual identity (see, for example, column 6, lines 52-65, which
shows a logical name or a virtual identity) further comprising:
                (i) a plurality of information object identifiers corresponding to a
                respective information object (see, for example, column 7, lines 1-8,
                which shows an actual name or an identifier corresponding to an
                information object, and column 8, lines 28-30, which shows that the
                virtual identity may include a second and thus a plurality of information
                object identifiers); and
                (ii) for each information object, a resource name identifying a
                resource at which said respective information object is located, wherein
                said resource name is associated with said respective information object

identifier (see, for example, column 7, lines 1-8, which shows a path name
or a resource name identifying the location of the information object); and
(b) a resource definition corresponding to each respective said named
resource, wherein the resource definition further comprises a set of connection
information (see, for example, column 8, lines 3-25, which shows a configuration
or a resource definition comprising connection information).

With respect to claim 2 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein said resource definition further comprises a schema map (see,
for example, column 7, lines 51-60, which shows a schema map for mapping the
schemas into an aggregated schema space).

With respect to claim 3 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute from said resource
to a virtual attribute defined by said schema map (see, for example, column 9,
lines 28-44, which shows mapping a property or attribute from the object to a
logical or virtual property or attribute).

With respect to claim 4 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein a virtual attribute value for said virtual attribute is stored in
RAM (see, for example, column 3, lines 41-53, which shows a memory system
with RAM for storing values).

With respect to claim 6 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein said set of connection information contains a connection
parameter selected from one of a hostname, a port, a resource username, a
resource password or a resource type (see, for example, column 8, lines 42-49,
which shows connection parameters including a resource user name and
password).

With respect to claim 7 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein said virtual identity corresponds to a user (see, for example,
column 7, lines 14-17, which shows that the logical or virtual identity may
correspond to a user).

With respect to claim 8 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein said information object comprises a user account (see, for
example, column 6, lines 21-27, which shows that the information object may
comprise user account information).

With respect to claim 9 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the
limitation wherein said information object identifier comprises an account name
(see, for example, column 7, lines 14-17, which shows that the identifier may
comprise a user identification or account name).

With respect to claim 10 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said resource definition further comprises a schema map (see, for example, column 7, lines 51-60, which shows a schema map for mapping the schemas into an aggregated schema space).

With respect to claim 11 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute from said resource to a virtual attribute defined by said schema map (see, for example, column 9, lines 28-44, which shows mapping a property or attribute from the object to a logical or virtual property or attribute).

With respect to claim 12 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein a virtual attribute value for said virtual attribute is maintained in RAM (see, for example, column 3, lines 41-53, which shows a memory system with RAM for storing values).

With respect to claim 14 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said set of connection information contains a connection parameter selected from one of a hostname, a port, a resource username, a resource password or a resource type (see, for example, column 8, lines 42-49, which shows connection parameters including a resource user name and password).

With respect to claim 15 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said resource is one of a Unix system, a Windows NT system, an Oracle database system or an email server (see, for example, column 4, lines 2-9, which shows that the resource may be a Windows NT system).

With respect to claim 16 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said software program is operable to connect to said resource based on said resource definition (see, for example, column 6, lines 36-41, which shows that the storage-mechanism interface connects to the resource based on the configuration or resource definition).

With respect to claim 17 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said resource definition further comprises a schema map (see, for example, column 7, lines 51-60, which shows a schema map for mapping the schemas into an aggregated schema space); and

wherein, said software program is operable to create a composite view of said virtual identity based on said schema map (see, for example, column 7, lines 60-65, which shows creating an aggregated or composite view).

With respect to claim 18 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said software program is operable to present a representation of said composite view in a graphical user interface (see, for example, column 7, lines 60-65, which shows displaying the aggregated or composite view, i.e. in a graphical user interface).

With respect to claim 19 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said graphical user interface is customizable (see, for example, column 6, lines 21-27, which shows that the graphical user interface is customizable).

With respect to claim 20 (currently amended), the limitations recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 1 (see the rejection of claim 1 above).

With respect to claim 21 (original), the limitations recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 2 (see the rejection of claim 2 above).

With respect to claim 22 (original), the limitations recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 8 (see the rejection of claim 8 above).

With respect to claim 23 (original), the limitations recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 9 (see the rejection of claim 9 above).

With respect to claim 24 (original), the limitations recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 10 (see the rejection of claim 10 above).

With respect to claim 25 (original), the limitations recited in the claim are analogous to the limitations recited in claim 11 (see the rejection of claim 11 above).

With respect to claim 26 (currently amended), Gwertzman discloses a method of managing information (see, for example, the abstract, which shows a method for managing properties or information) comprising:
storing an identity index comprising a plurality of information object identifiers corresponding to a set of information objects that define a user (see, for example, column 7, lines 1-8, which shows a database or an identity index comprising actual names or identifiers corresponding to information objects, and column 7, lines 44-50, which shows that the information objects are user objects);
associating a resource definition with each information object identifier, wherein each resource definition corresponds to a different one of a plurality of resources at which the information object corresponding to the associated information object identifier is located, and wherein each resource definition

contains a connection information for the corresponding resource (see, for example, column 8, lines 3-25, which shows a configuration or a resource definition associated with each object corresponding to a storage mechanism or resource, further comprising connection information for the resource).

With respect to claim 27 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein each information object identifier from said set of information object identifiers comprises a native key for the corresponding information object (see, for example, column 8, lines 20-25, which shows that the identifier corresponding to an information object comprises the native path or key for the property or object).

With respect to claim 28 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said native key comprises an account name (see, for example, column 7, lines 14-17, which shows that the identifier may comprise a user identification or account name).

With respect to claim 29 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein the step of associating at least one of a set of resource definitions with each information object identifier further comprises associating at least one resource name with each information object identifier (see, for example, column 7, lines 1-8, which shows a path name or resource name identifying the location of the information object).

With respect to claim 30 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein each information object comprises a user account (see, for example, column 6, lines 21-27, which shows that the information object may comprise user account information).

With respect to claim 31 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein each resource definition further comprises a schema map (see, for example, column 7, lines 51-60, which shows a schema map for mapping the schemas into an aggregated schema space).

With respect to claim 32 (original), Gwertzman further discloses the limitation wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute to a virtual attribute (see, for example, column 9, lines 28-44, which shows mapping a property or attribute from the object to a logical or virtual property or attribute).

With respect to claim 33 (original), Gwertzman further discloses creating a composite view of a user based on said schema map from each resource definition (see, for example, column 7, lines 60-65, which shows creating an aggregated or composite view).
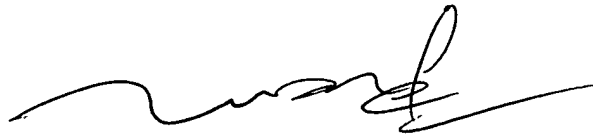
For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Yigdall
Examiner   MY
Art Unit 2192

TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Conferees:
Tuan Dam, SPE 2192
Kakali Chaki, SPE 2193

KAKALI CHAKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100